

Lightning Strike Mapping Resources

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Laptop/Computer Tools on Top – Mobile Applications Below

Automated Lightning Mapping System (ALMS) tool – documentation on the tool for this and the resource can be found at: http://gis.nwcg.gov/links_tools.html The tool works with ArcGIS 10, 10.1 (certified), and has been successfully tested with 10.2, 10.2.1, and 10.2.2. This allows you to download data for geographic extent within date/time ranges. See the User's Manual for more information on what this system provides -

http://gis.nwcg.gov/tools/alms_user_guide_ArcGIS10_beta_20130510.docx

Yes you can download the data for further analysis or mapping here. This requires you have a login/password to the ALMS system - <http://www.nifc.blm.gov/> through the Wildland Fire Management Information System (<https://www.nifc.blm.gov/cgi/WfmiHome.cgi>). Use the Access Request button to establish a login/password. If you are not a Federal employee you may need a sponsorship to gain access.

LightningMaps.org – <http://www.lightningmaps.org/realtime?lang=en> free lightning maps and applications – nice web application with apps for mobile devices (Android mostly). Zoom update – IE 11, Chrome, FireFox work with zoom, IE 8 does appear to work. Services here, but requires login/password – seems you can only get this if you have a station. On a mobile device? The link above is optimized for mobile devices. No downloading of data found.

Blitzortung.org – this is the data source for the above web tool. Also has an interface for viewing lightning data.

http://www.blitzortung.org/Webpages/index.php?lang=en&page_0=30 Services are available, but password protected for participants only. It doesn't appear that you can zoom in. Same as LightningMaps.org above.

Intellicast.com – has a lightning strikes map at: <http://www.intellicast.com/Storm/Severe/Lightning.aspx> - this is also a static map that will not let you zoom in. The interactive map doesn't have lightning in it that I can see. No downloading of data found.

WeatherBug.com – has lightning maps at: <http://weather.weatherbug.com/lightning.html> - here you can type in a city name or zipcode (Use GO button to load) and you will get a closer picture of lightning in the area. No downloading of data found.

WeatherTap.com – lightning tracker/radar and more at: <http://www.weathertap.com/> – subscription fee \$8.00/month – test it for 2 weeks for free. Requires Java on PC, mobile iOS part of subscription, but not quite as robust.

ArcGIS Online – <http://www.arcgis.com/home/> worth keeping an eye on. There are some lightning services here, some work, some don't. Downloading not tested.

Lightning Applications – the quick list – sorry, just iOS now – if you are using any of these let me know how you like them or not, if you have android apps I am happy to add these as well. No downloading of data available.

- **Lightning Finder** – \$5.99 subscription, 3 stars, iPad and iPhone – 7 day free trial – displays current lightning strikes in near real time for the 48 states and some beyond. Allows for 1 hour history as well.
- **LiveLightning** – FREE, 3 stars, iPad and iPhone – for USA North – you must set this in the setting or you won't see anything in US – Europe is the default. Nice app – tools all toggle (click to activate, click to undo), tap strike to

get date/time info. This is part of the LightningMap.org and Blitzortung.org tools noted above.

- BoltMeter Lightning - \$1.99, 2 stars, iPad and iPhone – does 30 mi from you, requires GPS, claims it is actual lightning strikes, provides compass with map behind.
- Flash Boom – Free, 5 stars, iPad and iPhone – calculates distance to lightning
- Lightning Locator - \$0.99, 2 stars, iPad and iPhone – calculates distance to lightning

Maintained by Lorri Peltz-Lewis and a cast of characters! Thanks to Suzann Leininger, Johnathan Wilson, and Willy Crippen! 😊